

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 06552 290947Z

15

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /018 W

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R 290943Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3310

INFO AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: ROC GROUP CONSIDERING BICENTENNIAL GIFT TO US

1. OCT 22-23 LOCAL PRESS CARRIED PREPMENTS OF PLANNED BICENTENNIAL GIFT TO US FROM CHINESE "BOTH WITHIN ROC AND OVERSEAS". ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR 238.8 FOOT TALL "SELENE MONUMENT", WHICH WOULD BE ERECTED AT SPACE CENTER IN HOUSTON TO MARK "MAN'S CONQUEST OF MOON", WILL BE HELD JULY 4, 1976. PAPERS SAID PROJECT BEING PLANNED BY "SINO-AMERICAN CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION", AND BY "CHINESE PREPARATION COMMITTEE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SELENE MONUMENT", WHICH HELD FIRST BOARD MEETING RECENTLY. BOARD MEMBERS SAID TO INCLUDE 52 GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUSINESS AND OTHER LEADERS.

2. IN SEEKING FURTHER INFORMATION ON MONUMENT, EMBASSY WAS INFORMED BY ASSOCIATION'S SEC GEN SHEN CHUN-HUI THAT NO FINAL DECISION YET TAKEN ON WHETHER MONUMENT WOULD BE BUILT AND PRESENTED. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT LOCAL PRESS HAD JUMPED GUN BY CARRYING REPORT ON MONUMENT. ACCORDING SHEN, CONSTRUCTION OF MONUMENT WAS FIRST PROPOSED BY ITS DESIGNER, WANG DA-HONG, ARCHITECT WHO DESIGNED SUN YAT-SEN MEMORIAL HALL.

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3. SHEN SAID NEITHER USG NOR HOUSTON HAS YET BEEN CON-

SULTED ABOUT MONUMENT, AND ADDED THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER FINAL DECISION TO CONSTRUCT MONUMENT IS REACHED. SECOND MEETING OF BOARD, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR OCT 24, WAS NOT HELD, AND SHEN SAID HE DOES NOT KNOW WHEN BOARD WILL MEET AGAIN.

4. EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IF ANY.
UNGER

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